

TITLE: REMOTE CONTROL UNIT FOR LOCOMOTIVE INCLUDING DISPLAY MODULE FOR DISPLAYING COMMAND INFORMATION

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application is a continuation of pending U.S. Patent application serial number 10/102,220 filed March 19, 2002. The contents of the above documents are incorporated herein by reference. , now U.S. Patent No. 6,658,331.

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to remote control units for locomotive and, more particularly, to remote control units for locomotives including display modules for displaying command information such as speed, throttle and brake setting information.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Economic constraints have led railway companies to develop portable units allowing a ground-based operator to remotely control a locomotive in a switching yard. The module 20 is essentially a transmitter communicating with a trail controller on the locomotive by way of a radio link. Typically, the operator carries this module and can perform duties such as coupling, and uncoupling cars while remaining in control of the locomotive movement at all times. This allows for placing the point of control at the point of movement thereby potentially enhancing safety, accuracy and efficiency.

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Typically, such remote control units include displays indicating the status of the commands being transmitted to the locomotive such as brake setting information, throttle setting information, speed setting information and so on. Generally, the display includes a set of light emitting diodes (LEDs) associated to respective settings corresponding to 30 brake setting information, throttle setting information or speed setting information. For example, a display indicating current brake setting information may include six indicators